

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 101528
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:JACOON:DAM

APPROVED BY NEA:ADUBS

T - JNYE (DRAFT)

OES/NET/NEP - RDEMING (DRAFT)

PM/NPP - ALOCKE (DRAFT)

S/AS - RKELLY (DRAFT)

EUR/WE - EBEIGEL (DRAFT)

L/OES - RSLOAN (DRAFT)

S/S-O - S VELERGA

-----114741 210102Z /70

O R 210031Z APR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T STATE 101528

EXDIS FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652:XGDS 3

TAGS: MNUC, TECH, ENRG, FR, PK, IN

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN REPROCESSING ISSUE

REF: A) PARIS 11907; B) STATE 19183

1. YOUR PERTINENT QUESTION IN PARA 6 OF REFTEL A IS ONE TO WHICH WE HAVE BEEN GIVING CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT. CLEARLY, IF THE FRENCH CANCEL THE CONTRACT, WE WILL WANT TO TRY TO FORESTALL A PAKISTANI DECISION TO GO IT ALONE, EITHER OPENLY OR COVERTLY. THE GLENN AMENDMENT APPLIES TO

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COUNTRIES RECEIVING REPROCESSING EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY FROM ABROAD, BUT IF THE PAKISTANIS SHOULD PROCEED WITH CONSTRUCTION OF A FACILITY BY THEMSELVES, WE WOULD CERTAINLY BE FACED WITH VERY DIFFICULT POLICY DECISIONS ON OUR FUTURE RELATIONS, INCLUDING ECONOMIC AID AND ARMS SALES.

2. THE ZIA REGIME IS POLITICALLY VULNERABLE AND COULD BE SUBJECT TO ATTACK FROM VIRTUALLY ALL CORNERS OF THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL SPECTRUM IF IT WERE SEEN TO BE BOWING TO U.S./FRENCH PRESSURE. THUS THERE MIGHT BE A STRONG TEMPTATION FOR ZIA TO SHOOT FROM THE HIP AND PROMPTLY

ANNOUNCE PAKISTAN'S INTENTION TO COMPLETE THE REPROCESSING PLANT COME WHAT MAY. IN THIS CONNECTION, FRENCH ARGUMENTS NOTWITHSTANDING, WE DOUBT VERY MUCH THAT THE PAKISTANIS COULD ON THEIR OWN COMPLETE A REPROCESSING PLANT SUITABLE FOR COMMERCIAL OPERATION, OR FIND AN ALTERNATIVE FOREIGN SUPPLIER TO ASSIST THEM IN COMPLETING IT. HOWEVER, THE PAKISTANIS MIGHT WELL PRESS ON WITH THE PROJECT, CONSTRUCTING A RELATIVELY SMALL AND CRUDE PLANT DESIGNED TO PRODUCE PURE PLUTONIUM, THE PURPOSE OF WHICH WOULD BE CLEAR TO ALL.

3. WITH THIS IN MIND, WE ARE DOING SOME PRELIMINARY THINKING ON WAYS THAT WE, PERHAPS IN COOPERATION WITH THE FRENCH, MIGHT BE ABLE TO DISSUADE THE GOP FROM TAKING A HASTY AND UNHELPFUL DECISION IF AND WHEN THE FRENCH CANCEL OUT. WE RECOGNIZE THE DIFFICULTIES OF COORDINATING WITH THE FRENCH ON TACTICS BEFORE THEY HAVE EVEN MADE THEIR DECISION ON THE CONTRACT. HOWEVER, AT SOME EARLY STAGE WE BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO ASK YOU TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FRENCH ON THE MODALITIES OF THEIR DISEN-
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GAGEMENT, IF SUCH SHOULD BE THEIR DECISION. TOGETHER, OR ACTING SEPARATELY, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO PRESENT SUFFICIENTLY ATTRACTIVE INDUCEMENTS ALONG THE LINES REFERRED TO IN PARA 1C OF REFTTEL B TO PROVIDE THE GOP WITH AN ALTERNATIVE TO MOVING AHEAD ALONE WITH REPROCESSING.

4. YOUR REACTIONS TO THE ABOVE WOULD BE APPRECIATED. CHRISTOPHER

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